

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8498

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, FI

SUBJECT: FRG-FINNISH RELATIONS

BEGIN SUMMAR: RECENT FRG-FINNISH CONSULTATIONS BIN
BONN PRODUCED AD REFERENDUM JOINT DECLARATION ON
RENUNCIATION OF FORCE AND RESPECT FOR FINNISH NEU-
TRALITY. CONSULTATIONS MADE NO PROGRESS ON LEGAL AND
FINANCIAL QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE FINNS. DECLARATION,
WHICH IS BEING SUBMITTED TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, MAY BE
PUBLISHED ON THE OCCASION OF A PROPOSED VISIT TO
BONN NEXT YEAR BY THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER. END
SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL. FRG AND FINNISH DELEGATIONS MET OCTOBER

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24-26 IN BONN FOR CONSULTATIONS ON QUESTIONS RELATED

TO THE RENUNCIATION OF FORCE, RESPECT FOR FINNISH NEUTRALITY AND, AT THE UNILATERAL INITIATIVE OF FINLAND, A DISCUSSION OF "UNSETTLED QUESTIONS OF A FINANCIAL AND LEGAL NATURE." THE TALKS, WHICH WERE ARRANGED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS LAST JANUARY, WERE HEADED ON THE FINNISH SIDE BY FOREIGN MINISTRY LEGAL DEPARTMENT CHIEF GUSTAVSON AND ON THE FRG SIDE BY FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL AND LEGAL DEPARTMENT CHIEF DREHER. FONOFF NORTH AMERICA/NORTH EUROPE DEPARTMENT CHIEF HAS BRIEFED EMBOFF ON THE FRG-FINNISH TALKS, WHICH REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE IN A VERY CONGENIAL ATMOSPHERE.

2. POLITICAL ASPECTS. OUR SOURCE SAID POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS PRODUCED A DRAFT JOINT DECLARATION AD REFERENDUM TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. IF AGREED, THE DECLARATION WOULD BE PUBLISHED ON THE OCCASION OF A PROPOSED VISIT NEXT YEAR TO BONN BY THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER. THE DECLARATION ENTAILS A JOINT STATEMENT OF RENUNCIATION OF FORCE, IN WHICH THE FRG PLEDGES TO RESPECT FINLAND'S POLITICAL NEUTRALITY. THE DRAFT DECLARATION ALSO CONTAINS A BILATERAL CLAUSE, IN WHICH BOTH SIDES ENDEAVOR TO DEEPEN THEIR RELATIONS. ANOTHER SENIOR WORKING LEVEL MEETING TO APPLY THE FINAL TOUCHES TO THE DECLARATION IS EXPECTED TO OCCUR LATE THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT YEAR.

3. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS. UPON ESTABLISHMENT OF BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN JANUARY 1973, THE FINNS UNILATERALLY VOICED THE WISH TO DISCUSS "UNSETTLED QUESTIONS OF A FINANCIAL AND LEGAL NATURE." THE FRG EXPRESSED THE READINESS TO LISTEN TO THE FINNS BUT RESERVED ITS POSITION ON THESE ISSUES. OUR FONOFF SOURCE SAYS THE FINNS WERE UNABLE IN THE RECENT CONSULTATIONS TO DEMONSTRATE VALID CLAIMS PURSUANT TO THE LONDON DEBT AGREEMENT. THE SUBJECT HAS THEREFORE BEEN REFERRED TO SUBSEQUENT FRG-FINNISH TALKS, SHOULD HELSINKI THEN BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MATERIALS SUBSTANTIATING ITS CLAIMS. IN THE GERMAN VIEW, NO PROGRESS OR DECISION WAS MADE ON THIS MATTER AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BALL REMAINS IN THE FINNISH COURT. HOWEVER, BONN IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER AGAIN.
HILLENBRAND

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